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# Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 12

December 1996

## Aspen/Ruffed Grouse Project on Beartooth RD Receives \$50,000 Grant

by Patrick Pierson, Beartooth RD,  
Custer NF, Red Lodge, Montana

Members of the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) recently met on the Beartooth RD, Red Lodge, MT, Custer NF, to recognize and memorialize Fran Dutton and her commitment to natural resource management.

Mrs. Dutton, a native of Montana, had been living in Pennsylvania where she was very active in the local chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. In recognition of her conservation ethic, five RGS Life Sponsors (Bill & Sis Fish; Bill & Hitch Goudy; Jim & Clara Sue Smith; Debbie & Bryan Stutzman; and Dan Dutton) contributed \$10,000 each to the Ruffed Grouse Society, to be used specifically to support aspen and ruffed grouse management on the Beartooth RD.

The Beartooth District has been actively involved since 1990 in efforts to promote aspen regeneration. To date, approximately 400 acres of aspen have been successfully regenerated. Regeneration treatments have included small patch clear-cutting or prescribed burning in aspen clones that are decadent or are experiencing conifer encroachment. The management practices are designed to provide habitat for ruffed grouse, moose, black bear, and a variety of migrating bird species.

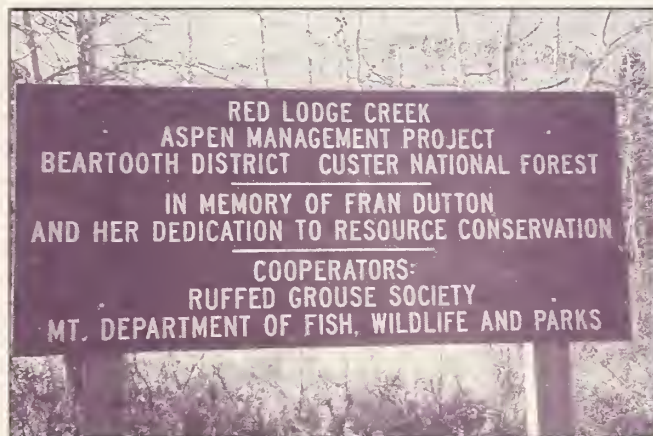
In the past, the Beartooth Mountains contained significantly more aspen than are now found in the area. Fire suppression activities have largely altered the natural process of periodic disturbances that are vital to natu-

ral aspen ecology. Aspen stands that would have normally burned on a 40 to 60-year cycle have not been regenerating since the early 1900s. As a result, the majority of the aspen communities have decreased in size, health, and vigor to the point that they no longer provide optimum values for the variety of wildlife species that utilized the aspen communities in the past. A unique aspect of this aspen management program is the partnerships established to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Partners in the program include the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Yellowstone Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society, the Montana Chapter of Safari Club International, and the Forest Service.

The major share of the funding to implement the program came from contributions from the Ruffed Grouse Society. This seed money has been combined with Forest Service funds which are challenge cost-shared with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Over the life of the program, approximately \$120,000 has been generated



**BEARTOOTH DISTRICT RANGER RAND HERZBERG** (to the right, in white hat) shakes hands with Ruffed Grouse Society Life Sponsor Dan Dutton at Fran Dutton memorial sign.



**FRAN DUTTON MEMORIAL SIGN**, Red Lodge Creek Drainage, Beartooth RD, Custer NF. Photos by Patrick Pierson

and directed toward on-the-ground management of this important resource.

The recent Ruffed Grouse Society contribution by Life Sponsors in Fran Dutton's memory has enabled the Beartooth RD to continue aspen regeneration into the 21st century.

*First Built in 1897*

# Historic Dam Reconstructed In Wilderness

*by David Silvius, Interdisciplinary Forester,  
Stevensville and West Fork Ranger Districts,  
Bitterroot National Forest.*

**R**econstruction of the Bass Lake Dam was completed in September. It is in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, about 10 miles west of Florence, MT, on the Stevensville RD, Bitterroot NF. It took the Bass Lake Reservoir Company four weeks to rebuild the dam. It impounds a 100-acre lake.

The Bass Lake Reservoir Co. cooperated with the Forest Service by minimizing the environmental effects on the wilderness and other resource values and helping with restoration work on the Bass Creek Trail, which was used to transport heavy equipment to the dam site. This concern for the protection of the wilderness resources illustrates a positive example of a private group working with the Forest Service in achieving common goals. Wilderness Watch, a wilderness conservation group, participated during the planning process by helping with mitigation measures, and trail restoration objectives.

The two major goals of the project were rebuilding the dam to meet safety standards and protecting the wilderness and other resource values.

The dam was considered a "high hazard". Failure of the dam would threaten lives and downstream property. The dam provides 3,600 acre feet of irrigation water to Bitterroot Valley farms and ranches.

An Environmental Impact Statement for the project was completed in 1995. The interdisciplinary team was composed of Bob Hammer, hydrologist; Mike Jakober, fisheries biologist; Dave Lockman, wildlife biologist; Herb Spadlin, wilderness; Mike Wilson, recreation; Marcia Cross, heritage resources; Bob Elmore, landscape architect; Bruce Amsden, engineer; Linda Pietarinen, botanist; Tami Brewer, writer/editor; David Silvius, interdisciplinary team leader; Leslie Weldon, Stevensville District Ranger.

Public interest in the project has been high because of the location of the dam and access issues, and the presence of other irrigation reservoirs within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the Bitterroot NF.

A smaller dam was first built on the site in 1897. It was enlarged in 1952 to its current size: 43 feet high, 300 feet long. This was before the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. A primitive, 8-mile road was built to the dam in 1952, six miles within what is now the wilderness. Since the wilderness was created in 1964, the old road has been managed as the Bass Creek Trail, for hiking and horseback riding.

Wilderness Ranger Bill Goslin provided Forest Service oversight in meeting wilderness management objectives, and supervised the trail crew in the trail restoration work.

There are 16 other irrigation reservoirs within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the Bitterroot NF. Most of these dams were first constructed in the late 1800s. Many of them are now in need of repairs and upgrading.



**HELICOPTER DELIVERING FUEL BARRELS.** (above)

**JACKHAMMERING CONCRETE AT HEADGATE CONTROL STRUCTURE.** (below)



**OUTLET PIPES ON FACE OF DAM**

Photos by Bill Goslin.

# 1997 Schedule For Pack Train

by Cheryl Vanderburg, Public Affairs Officer,  
Lolo National Forest, Missoula, Montana

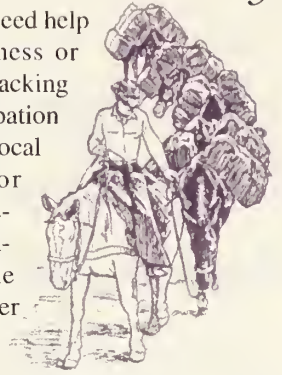
**R**equests for the Northern Region Pack Train are currently being accepted for the 1997 season.

Requests may be sent via DG to L.Sholty:R01F16D04A or mail requests to Lynne Sholty, Ninemile Ranger District, 20325 Remount Road, Huson, MT 59846.

An information packet about the Pack Train is available by contacting Bob Hoverson or Lynne at the Ninemile Ranger District (406) 626-5201. January 15, 1997 is the deadline for submitting applications for the Northern Region Pack Train.

The mules are ready to roll into the 1997

season. If you need help with a wilderness or back country packing project, participation in a parade or local celebration or educational displays and training, contact the Ninemile Ranger District.



**DEFOLIATING MOTH** being released by Dr. Bob Nowierski, Montana State University-Bozeman, in a dalmation toadflax area on the Townsend RD. Photo by Mary Horstman.

**B**iological controls have been used as part of the Townsend RD's noxious weeds management program since 1990. In the past six years, the biological control program has grown from an initial release of the knapweed seedhead flies to the use of more than a dozen species of insects in 1996.

Noxious weeds that are now being treated with insect agents include spotted and diffuse knapweed, dalmation toadflax, common toadflax, musk thistle, Canada thistle and leafy spurge.

Spotted and diffuse knapweed were the first target noxious weeds. Two species of seedhead flies were released in May of 1996 and are now common throughout the area. Root boring moths and root boring weevils have been released in several infested areas. Dr. Jim Story, Western Ag Research Center, Corvallis, MT, provides the district with the knapweed root boring insects.

Dalmation and common toadflax were the second targeted species. A defoliating moth

## Insects Join War Against Noxious weeds On Townsend Ranger District

by Diane Johnson, Range Technician,  
Townsend, (MT) RD, Helena  
National Forest

was placed on a toadflax-infested hillside in the Elkhorn Mountains. In the next few years a seed capsule feeding beetle was added. It feeds on the pollen and ovaries of both toadflax species, greatly reducing seed production. Three newly-approved insects were release in 1996: a root galling weevil; a seed-feeding weevil; and a basal root feeding moth.

A seedhead weevil, released in 1990 and 1991, has been effective throughout the district in the biological control of musk thistle. The musk thistle insects were supplied by Dr. Norm Reese, Montana State University, Bozeman, and Ann Rauser, Supervisor of the Broadwater County Weed Board.

Canada thistle have been treated with about 100 weevils released each year in three of the last six years. Little impact has been noticed on the thistles. However, the weevils may stress the thistles by opening areas on the plant for invasion by other organisms.

Leafy spurge is the last weed this district has targeted for biological control. Aggressive efforts have been made to contain leafy spurge with multiple releases of flea beetles. Eventual control of leafy spurge by these insects is probable.



**YOUNG VISITORS** walking through a patch of musk thistle on the Townsend RD.

Photo by Deena Gobbs.

Insects used in the district's biological control program have been tested for host specificity and will not attack plants other than the target species and, in some cases, their closest relatives. The single exception is the weevil for musk thistle; it attacks several species of large headed thistles.

Biological control of noxious weeds is a long-term approach. It takes years or even decades. The more species of insects per weed, the more effective the program. Ideally, each plant should have biological agents to attack the seedheads, roots, foliage and root crowns. Because each insect has environmental preferences, more varieties of insects are needed.

*Lewis & Clark NF*

# 104 Mining Claims Filed On Rocky Mountain Front

by David Whittekiend, wildlife biologist,  
Rocky Mtn RD, Choteau, MT, Lewis & Clark NF.

Now, another chapter in the controversial history of the Rocky Mountain Front. One hundred and four hard rock mining claims have been staked in a 3.4 square-mile area on the east front of the Rocky Mountains in the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Choteau, MT, Lewis & Clark NF. Filed in Teton County in August, the claims are in the Blackleaf/Muddy Creek area, bordered by the State of Montana's 9,000-acre Blackleaf Wildlife Management Area on the east and the Bob Marshall Wilderness to the west.

The claim staking and further exploration will be included in a Forest Service study of the environmental impact of oil and gas leasing in the area. The mining claims were filed after the Forest's oil and gas leasing draft environmental impact statement was written, but will be considered among overall impacts in the area.

After the public comment period ends

**CLAIM AREA** below Mt. Werner,  
Rocky Mountain Front.

Photo by David Whittekiend.



in December, the final environmental impact statement on oil and gas leasing could be out in the spring.

*Northern Idaho*

# Disabled Volunteers Help With Access Guide

by Randy Wakefield, Cartography  
Technician, Idaho Panhandle National  
Forests, Coeur d'Alene, ID

The number one concern for people with disabilities is equal access, whether it's access to our National Forests, to camp, hunt, hike or access to the local grocery store. It's access to jobs, to recreation, to transportation, to literature.

Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 1990) brought the issue to the forefront. As he signed the legislation, President Bush said, "Let the shameful walls of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

For years the Forest Service has been working to tear down those "walls of exclusion." Dedicated people in the Forest Service recently assembled groups of disabled volunteers to help survey access to Forest Service administrative buildings and recreation sites.



**NOEL NEWHOUSE (L) &  
RANDY WAKEFIELD**

conducting access survey  
at North Idaho meeting  
center.

Photo by Grady Myers.

rooms, and National Forest recreation.

Access information for the disabled benefits everyone. One out of three people in this country will become disabled in their lifetime, most only temporarily owing to problems such as a broken leg, hip replacement, or other

relatively minor injury. If you take into account disabled family members and close friends, that means nearly everyone, at some point in their life, will come to understand the importance of equal access.

While you're appreciating and using the information in the North Idaho access guide, remember it's the product of volunteered time and talents.



## SHORT NOTES

**VETERANS IN R-1's** permanent, full-time (PFT) work force number 530, 18.6% of the region's total of 2,892 PFTs. Fifty-nine of these veterans of military service are disabled. There are 194 veterans among the R-1 temporary employees. Twenty-three of these veterans are disabled.

**"OUTDOORS FOR EVERYONE"** is the title of a new accessible recreation guide available at Forest Service offices on the Clearwater and Nez Perce NFs. The free guide lists recreation opportunities for everyone — the elderly, children, people with disabilities and families - along with the "challenge level" of various sites and activities.

**TWO MORE RENTAL CABINS** on Madison RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF: Wall Creek cabin, 14 miles south of Ennis,

MT, and the West Fork cabin, 40 miles south of Ennis. The West Fork cabin rental season runs through the winter. For the Wall Creek cabin, the season started Oct. 25 and runs through December 1.

### NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS MANAGEMENT PLANS REVISIONS

process involves the evaluation of rivers and streams for their eligibility as Wild & Scenic Rivers. Previous eligibility studies by the Custer NF in the 1980s determined the Little Missouri River eligible as a Wild & Scenic River. It has passed the first step or screen in the evaluation process. The decision whether the Little Missouri River should be recommended to Congress at all or recommended as wild, scenic or recreational, has yet to be made.

### SOCIETY OF RANGE MANAGEMENT'S 50th ANNIVERSARY MEETING

will be Feb. 16-21 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Theme of the anniversary meeting is "Golden Memories and Golden Opportunities." For registration and program details, telephone (303) 355-7070.

## True Reinvention Calls for Changes In Behavior, Culture

Last spring the Reinvention Subteam 3 convened to "critique the Region's work processes, or the way the Region does business, and make recommendations for re-engineering where significant improvements in efficiency and effectiveness can be gained." The Team concluded that "to change work processes, meaningful change must take place in the Region's behavior and culture."

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser says "It is now time we take a renewed look at how we can do things more efficiently to accomplish our tasks with a smaller work force. Each of us has the ability to examine how we accomplish our work and, in many cases, each of us has the power and ability to implement changes."

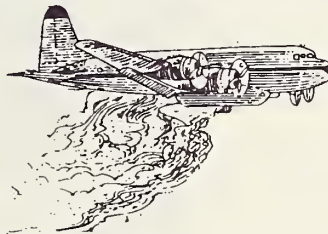
Beginning with this issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS, re-invention ideas and examples will be shared in a new column, "HELP CHANGE R-1 WORK PROCESSES: SHARE YOUR REINVENTION IDEAS." Send your reinvention ideas, contributions, recommendations and suggestions for this column to the N-R-N editor: j.moore:R01A via DG or telephone Jud Moore (406/329-3093), RO Public & Governmental Relations.

Employees responded to a Subteam 3 invitation with a variety of ideas for saving time, efforts and money. Some very specific suggestions, published in the appendix of the 24-page "Northern Region Reinvention Subteam 3 Report (available from the RO Office of Public & Governmental Relations) dealt with conserving paper:

- excess amounts of paper are being used across the Region.
- use duplex printing--your paper needs will be cut in half.
- establish a printer for draft work that uses nothing but used paper (print on back of used paper).
- when sending general information messages, use 'Eyes Only' to reduce unnecessary printing of these information messages. A hard copy reference can be kept in each administrative unit.

## R-1 Acres Burned, Number of Fires Above 5-year Average

by Colleen Finneman, Intelligence Officer,  
Aerial Fire Depot, Missoula, Montana



In 1996, the Region recorded 1,515 fires, compared with the region's 5-year average of 1,296 fires. Of the 1,515 fires, 1,168 were lightning caused and 347 were human caused. There were 3,217 fires reported in 1996 by all agencies within the Northern Region that report to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center.

### Acres Burned

Forest Service fires in the Northern Region in 1996 burned 70,655 acres compared with five-year average of 46,142 acres burned. Of the area burned in 1996, 7,102 acres were human caused and 63,553 acres were lightning caused. All agencies reporting to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center burned 236,843 acres compared to the five-year average of 140,315 acres.

### Jumps & Redardant

Northern Region smokejumpers from Missoula, West Yellowstone, MT and Grangeville, ID bases were dispatched to 259 fires in 1996. The jumpers made 1,002 jumps. A total of 1,321,300 gallons of fire retardant were pumped at Northern Region bases in 1996, compared with the five-year average of 1,257,700 gallons.

# Songs, Journals, Easels: Creative Forest Resources

by Amy Teegarden, Community Outreach  
and Assistance Coordinator, Helena NF



**THE WILBUR REHMANN QUARTET** played "Cabin In The Sky" at the Kading Cabin on the banks of the Little Blackfoot River.

**T**he melodies of musicians, the words of writers and the images of artists this summer became renewable resources from the National Forest in the form of - ART!

Fourteen area participants fostered their creative interests in the natural environment by participating in the Helena NF's new Artist-In-Residence program. Teaming up with the Holter Museum of Helena, the Forest invited talented writers, musicians and artists to stay in Forest cabins while working on creative projects.

In return, the participants agreed to contribute creative products of their talents for public benefit. The artists' contributions reflected their interests and talents: host a nature sketching workshop or organize an art show at the Holter Museum. Their contributions are intended to serve as interpretive or educational links between the community and the National Forest. Their performances, journal accounts, or painting will reflect, in a very personal way, the artists' Forest experiences.

The Artist-In-Residence program is a link between the community and the Forest. It also provides a link to the past, highlighting many of the historic cabins on the Forest. Both administrative and rental cabins are used to house the Artists-In-Residence participants. The cabins' settings, structures and heritage provide inspiration for writing, sketching and composing.

Artist-In-Residence participants chose to be involved in the program for a variety of reasons. Musician Wilbur Rehmann mixes the sound of his sax with the winds in the trees. "The Little Blackfoot drainage creates a nice echo effect for acoustical instruments," according to Rehmann. His quartet chose to offer a jazz concert at the Kading Cabin along the Little Blackfoot River. Approximately 185 people of all ages came to the cabin on a sunny Sunday afternoon in July to share in his experience. The musicians opened the acoustical concert with the 1940's song *Cabin In the Sky*.

Artist Ann Wolfinger enjoys being in the wilderness. She chose to experience first hand what it's like to work in the Scapegoat Wilderness. She "moved into" the Webb Lake guard station, and became part of the Lincoln Ranger District trail crew. A week spent in the wilderness with wilderness rangers, managers and trail workers gave her a new appreciation for the complexity of wilderness management. "I left with a true admiration for the crew's professional, and hard-working ethics," Wolfinger observed. She now plans to share her journal reflections with others.

Professional artist Dale Livzey, known for painting landscapes on large canvasses, chose to participate in the program because he saw it as an opportunity to "get away from things," living in the open, rolling and diverse landscapes surrounding the Indian Flats cabin in the Big Belt Mountains.

For many of us who work for the Forest Service, our most exciting challenge can be experimenting with new ideas. I have been empowered to implement programs that provide new connections between the Forest and the surrounding communities. This often means taking risks and not always knowing what the outcome will be. Any uncertainty about the public interest in attending a jazz concert 20 miles down a winding mountain road was dashed. Not only did they come, they wanted to know when there'd be another concert.

Lack of importance? Not on the Helena National Forest. We are seizing opportunities to develop and enhance relations with people in surrounding communities. In times



**MORE THAN 175 PEOPLE** came to enjoy the mix of jazz and wind in the trees at Kading Cabin in the Helena NF.

Photos by Amy Teegarden.

of uncertainty and controversy this program has provided the Helena NF with a creative opportunity to reach out and foster relationships with people the Forest is not traditionally involved with.

Later this fall, program participants, staff from the Holter Museum and the Forest will meet to evaluate events of the first summer (1996) and study how to improved the program and integrate Artist-In-Residence efforts into the Forest's other community programs.



**TIMBER SALE CONTRACTOR examines salvage sale timber.** Photo: East Timber Zone

In December of 1995, 100 mile-an-hour winds from a colliding arctic and warm marine air touched down in the Lolo Creek Canyon, toppling timber on the Lolo National Forest.

Missoula Ranger District will sell 4.9 million board feet (BF) of this timber and an additional 1.8 million BF of windthrown trees will be left on the ground. Those trees left will be a benefit to water quality, fish habitat, non-game wildlife, soil and elk.

Missoula District Ranger Dave Stack made the timber sale decision after a care-

# 100-mile-an-hour Winds Prompt Salvage Timber Sale

by Cheryl A. Vanderburg, Public Affairs officer,  
Lolo National Forest

ful study of three alternatives. During the 20 day comment period the district received seven comments, all but one in favor of the timber salvage. This sale will be offered under the salvage legislation set to expire December 31. With no administrative appeal of this decision, Stack said, "On the ground, our decision is the same."

Acreage involved in this sale includes approximately 716 acres scattered across National Forest land between the Elk Meadows Road and Lolo Hot Springs along U.S. Highway 12.

There will be no timber cutting in the sensitive part of upper Lolo Creek watershed. The Lolo NF made a decision in 1987 not to schedule timber sales for a decade in that portion due to environmental damage from previous harvesting on public and private

land. Salvage sales were not prohibited.

The conditions in the Lolo Creek area were the result of warm weather and rain that preceded the wind, softening the ground and leaving the trees unsupported when the wind hit.

During the next two years, the trees will be harvested and the rate of harvest will be accelerated. The economic value of downed timber decreases the longer it remains on the ground.

The Lolo NF was the hardest hit National Forest. An estimated 30 million board feet was damaged by the storm on the East Timber Zone—Missoula, Ninemile and Seeley Lake Ranger Districts. About 26 million board feet will be prepared and advertised as Salvage Timber Sales by December 31, 1996.

## Savenac Tree Nursery

# Memorial Dedicated To 1910 Firefighters Eighty-Six Years Later



**DEDICATION AT SAVENAC NURSERY:** Jerry Williams (in uniform to left of memorial stone), R-1 Director of Air, Fire and Aviation, led the dedication program. Bud Mason (in white shirt) and Superior District Ranger Cindy Enstrom are to the right of the stone. The others are members of the Superior Ranger District fire crew.

Photo by Timothy F. Light, archaeologist, Lolo NF SO.

A memorial to 1910 firefighters was dedicated this summer at the 6th annual Old Timers Day at the historic Savenac Tree Nursery, west of Superior, MT, Superior RD, Lolo NF. The memorial stone and bronze plaque honors the 78 firefighters who died in the 1910 wildfire that swept across northern Idaho and into western Montana.

*"This stone is in memory of the seventy-eight Forest Service fire fighters who valiantly died in the great forest fire of 1910. This memorial stone was erected in 1941 by Company No. 956, Camp Taft, Civilian Conservation Corps. The memorial was dedicated in 1996 by the U.S. Forest Service."*

The memorial boulder was dragged to the nursery from Silver Creek, near Saltese, MT, in 1941 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers at Camp Taft. CCC workers designed and planned the memorial. A tree was planted in the nearby arboretum for each of the 78 firefighters. Plans for completing the memorial were interrupted by the beginning of World War II and the closure of the CCC camp. It was rediscovered after this information was shared by a former CCC worker at the 1993 Savenac Reunion.

The 1996 dedication came at the end of a week of restoration and preservation by a group of Forest Service Passport in Time volunteers and preservation specialists.

The volunteers and preservation special-

ists had worked to transform Savenac into a visitors' center, stabilizing part of the 1916 asphalt Mullan Road and concrete bridge, restoring and painting the old weather station.

Savenac tree nursery was started in 1907 by Elers Koch of the Northern Region headquarters staff. The fire of 1910 destroyed the nursery before it could ship its first crop of tree seedlings. But the facility was rebuilt the following year and again in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. At that time it did service as the largest tree nursery in the Northwest.

At its peak, Savenac was producing 11 to 12 million seedlings a year.

Superior District Ranger Cindy Enstrom welcomed more than 120 people who came to the reunion and dedication. Forest Service employees, former Savenac employees, retirees, CCC veterans and others enjoyed a potluck dinner and story sharing.

# Inter-Tribal Youth Camp: Two Idaho Indian Tribes, Three National Forests

by Thomas M. Sandberg, archaeologist, Sandpoint (Idaho) Ranger District,  
Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

The 1996 Idaho Inter-Tribal Youth Camp at Whiskey Rock Bay Campground, Sandpoint Ranger District, was a total (or very nearly) success.

After eight years of following the same basic plan based on an academic exercise called "Mystic Mountain," our planning group was told we couldn't proceed (or spend) as we had in previous years. Decisions like that brought an end to several similar camps across the country.

But our group, which included Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forest employees and Kalispell, Nez Perce Tribes and unaffiliated tribal members, didn't want to give up. With the advice and support of David Hallen, Lupe Renteria and Bud McConaughy of the IPNF, we developed a new idea: We scheduled a camp and arranged for food, lodging, transportation and achievement awards for the students. Then, counselors, students and staff simply signed volunteer agreements and worked on Forest projects.

What a great idea!

We had less than five months to plan the "great idea". Fortunately, several suitable projects were available on the district with agreeable project leaders and a nice campground close to the projects.

The camp began on a Sunday in June. By mid-afternoon, the 18 students, four counselors and various staff were in place. The full camp eventually totaled 36.

The youths were divided into four work crews, each under one or two leaders. Every morning, a two-hour education session based on Project Learning Tree or Project Wild prepared the crews for their afternoon tasks.

Projects included electro-shock fishing, stream structure construction, boardwalk construction, trail clearing, timber sale preparation and cruising, tree planting, white pine pruning, nesting box and platform repair and irrigation pipe assembly.

After work, students canoed, swam or played basketball, then took part in evening cultural activities.

At the end of the week, a member from each crew gave a presentation about what the



## STREAM & CRITTER ANALYSIS ON A WET AFTERNOON AT THE YOUTH

**CAMP.** Left to right: Susan Perin, Raymond Finlay, Craig Falcon and Laura Chapman.

Photo by Grady C. Myers.

crew had learned, including the interactions of various disciplines. Those presentations and watching the teamwork and accomplishments were rewarding for the counselors, staff and crew leaders.

The students did about three days' work in a little over 3 1/2 hours. It was especially rewarding for the adults when one crew member asked about the possibility of working on a Forest Service trail crew.

I was still tired the next week. Ah, the energies of the young.

A big vote of thanks to everyone for their help and support of the 9th annual Inter-Tribal Youth Camp.

## Grangeville - Elk City

# School Children Learn & Enjoy Campout Classes

by Laura Smith, Public Affairs,  
Nez Perce National Forest

Sixth grade students from Grangeville and Elk City, Idaho elementary schools participated in their annual Outdoor Classroom & Campout, Sept. 1996, at the Nez Perce NF's Eagle's Nest Campground (formerly the Girl Scout Camp), 7 1/2 miles south of Grangeville.

Eighty-eight students, six teachers and twenty-five chaperones/parents participated in the three-day outdoor classroom-campout event.

Coordinators were employees from the Idaho Fish & Game Department, Idaho Department of Lands, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nez Perce National Forest, and Elk City and Grangeville sixth-grade teachers.



**SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT STEVEN AIKEN** watches Steve Armstrong demonstrate the sharpness of obsidian at the flintknapping demonstration. Photo by Cindy Schacher.

Activity stations were set up in the forest surrounding the campsite. Each student received a record book for recording notes on group events, station activities, personal experiences and memories. For example, on the

nature walk the students were encouraged to describe and record in their books what they heard, saw, smelled and/or touched.

An orienteering and compass course station was demonstrated by Rich Gribble, Miki Wemhoff and Cathie Bell. At the forestry station, Ed Hinds and Dave Summers taught forestry terms, timber cruising and how to measure the age, height and diameter of trees with the three instruments foresters use.

Forest archaeologists Steve Armstrong and Cindy Schacher gave demonstrations at the archaeological station on flintknapping, atlatl (spear throwing) and how they perform archaeological excavations.

There were "hands on" experiences at the First Aid Station, presented by Tracy Baune and Alta Ramsey. The session covered bleeding, bandaging, burns, bites and stings, frostbite, hypothermia and heat exhaustion.

Outstanding team effort was shown as the teachers and parents cooked all the meals and the students were responsible for cleaning up afterwards.

"Leave No Trace Camping" ethics were practiced. The group left the campsite cleaner than they found it.

# Human Relations Action Committee Workday at Lolo Campground

by Randy Steiner, Persons With Disabilities Program Manager, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho

The Clearwater National Forest Human Relations Action Committee (HRAC) sponsored a workday Sept. 19 at the Lolo Campground on the Pierce RD. Forty-seven employees participated in the project with representation from every unit on the Forest.

Each site at the campground had been surveyed and a design developed. A work plan was completed to determine the tools and personnel needed. The crew leaders met the week before the workday to review the planned changes and make site assignments.

The work included removing tables, fireplaces, benches, brush and the old toilet. On some sites spurs were realigned, fire rings relocated, new table sites, and tent pads built.

All of the sites now have accessible tables and barbecue grills and the ground was graded and filled. The group site has new benches; two trails were widened and graded; and a gate was enlarged to permit wheelchair access. A new bulletin board was installed at the group site.

Completion of the workday projects would not have been possible without the dump truck, bobcat and backhoe provided

by the road crew. They went back the next day to haul in more fill and gravel and complete the dirt work.

The Lolo Campground rehabilitation had been off and on the capital investment program for several years. But it kept getting pushed back in compliance with budget constraints. This made it a prime candidate for the HRAC workday to improve the site and provide accessibility.

The employees volunteered their time for the day. New tables, benches and barbecue grills were surplus from other recently completed Forest projects. As a result the improvement projects cost the District practically nothing. The amount of the donated labor was valued at more than \$7,000; the surplus materials were valued at \$5,600.

The employee volunteers brought potluck dishes and the Pierce RD Welfare Committee provided hamburgers and hot dogs. Despite miserable weather, the participants



**AT HRAC WORKDAY, LOLO CAMPGROUND:** Cliff Mitchell and Dean Brinkman, SO employees, helped level a support for one of the new accessible tables. Photo by Cheryl Emch.

worked hard and enjoyed working together on the campground projects. The amount of work accomplished in one day was amazing.

"This is a perfect example of how civil rights can be incorporated into our everyday jobs," touted Cheryl Emch, HRAC chairperson. "The HRAC and all the participants should be proud of their accomplishment at the campground."

## "Bring Back The Natives"

# Four Fisheries Programs Receive Challenge Grants To "Bring Back The Natives"



Four Northern Region fisheries programs for restoration of native fish species on public lands have received national challenge grants through a special program managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"Bring Back the Natives" (BBN) is a special program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, created in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and Trout Unlimited.

The program's goal is to restore the health of riverine systems and their native fish species. The total project funds made available for the four programs through BBN and Forest Service partners exceed \$135,000. Rick Stowell, R-1 fisheries program leader, RO Div.

of Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries and Rare Plants, explained that three Northern Region projects are on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest of southwestern Montana and one on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests of northern Idaho.

**SILVER SPRINGS PROJECT,** Idaho Panhandle National Forests: The Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Washington Water & Power Co., the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and Idaho Department of Game and Fish will remove sediment-filled gravel, rotted drop log structures, and poor riparian cover in Sullivan Springs. They will restore spawning areas to a previously channelized stream, and return healthy riparian cover in Lake Pend Oreille watershed. (\$60,000).

**ARCTIC GRAYLING BIG HOLE HABITAT,** Wisdom RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest: Wisdom RD and the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will restore riparian vegetation and bank stability to improve Arctic grayling spawning,

rearing and wintering habitat in the Big Hole River watershed in Montana. Willows will be planted and approximately four miles of jackleg fence will be constructed to reduced sedimentation and prevent cattle overgrazing riparian areas. (\$18,000)

**ARCTIC GRAYLING PROGRAM,** Wisdom RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF: Wisdom RD will work with Federal, State and private partners in the Montana Fluvial Arctic Workgroup to establish at least five stable, viable populations of arctic grayling in at least three drainages (Big Hole, Jefferson, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Sun and Smith) within the Missouri River system by the year 2020. (\$36,000)

**MUSKRAT CREEK CUTTHROAT RESTORATION:** Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Bureau of Land Management will work to restore a population of westslope cutthroat trout to Muskrat Creek by expanding habitat by four miles. Non-native species will be removed and further invasions prevented. (\$21,700)

# Trees & Shrubs Make "Classroom" Harlowton Schools

by Roxanna R. Stroud, Musselshell RD, Lewis & Clark NF

**T**rees and shrubs planted at Hillcrest (Harlowton) Elementary will add a "nature's classroom" as well as incorporate a much needed wind-break for the playground. Also, new deciduous trees will soften the landscape of Harlowton High School and add shady lawn areas for students and faculty.

Thanks to the hard work of the Harlowton Tree Board, the City of Harlowton received a Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Project Fund grant. This year, \$20,000 was awarded to nine projects in the Northern Region to aid in improving the understanding of the benefits of trees, fostering community partnerships, and encouraging the enhancement of community forests.

The City of Harlowton, with its all-volunteer tree board, has a history of successful urban tree planting and beautification. Community members had identified the schools as a next site for an urban tree planting project. The schools were devoid of any trees or shrubs and exposed to the prevailing winds from the north and west.



**HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS,** Harlowton, MT, planting trees at their school.

Photo by Roxanna R. Stroud

Cooperators, partners, and volunteers shared various responsibilities and tasks to insure project completion for Arbor Day last April. With the final installation of the watering system at the elementary school, 550 caragana plants and 46 types of trees were planted. At Harlowton High, thirteen new trees will benefit the school landscape.

Combining Earth Day and Arbor Day really gave added credence to the 1996 theme, "The Time Has Come". On May 1st, an

Earth Day 1996 celebration and assembly featured guest speakers from the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Each spoke on the care and nurturing trees need. A demonstration of cooperation by the students gave everyone an idea of how nature's elements work together to produce a healthy, viable forest.

"Woody" attended the celebration to hand out gifts for students and teachers.

## Public Tours Clearwater NF Storm Damage

by Kathy Thompson, Information Assistant, Clearwater National Forest SO, Orofino, Idaho.

Nineteen people spent a day this summer touring Clearwater NF lands to see firsthand some of the damage resulting from 1995-96 winter storms.

They were accompanied by a team of experts who offered their professional perspectives when the group visited a riparian area in the Pete King drainage. A landslide had deposited debris in the area. A crew was at work in a nearby stream, taking measurements to determine sediment levels.

The group then drove to an area for a panoramic view of the effects of changes in the Pete King drainage, over time, from fire and other natural phenomena.

At another viewpoint across the canyon they saw how a road had been obliterated by contouring to prevent partially failed fill slopes from continuing downhill to a stream

channel. The tour was offered by the team of experts after public meeting participants voiced interest in the Clearwater NF's management of lands damaged by the winter storms and flooding.

The team of specialists included: Terry Cundy, Potlatch Corporation, whose area of specialty is hydrology; Robert L. Schuster, scientist emeritus, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colo., geomorphology; Dale Wilson, consultant, soils scientist; Dr. C. Michael Falter, Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of Idaho, fisheries habitat specialist; Doug McClelland, geotechnical and materials engineering, Forest Service Regional Office, slope stability; Randy Foltz, Intermountain Research Station Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Moscow, Idaho, engineering technology; and Jim



**SOILS SCIENTIST DALE WILSON (R)** talks with (L to R) Lynn Card, Clearwater Resource Coalition; Chuck Pezesbki, Biodiversity Project, and Carl Johnson, Forest Service engineer, during a lunch break on a tour to view damage that occurred on the Clearwater National Forest last winter. by Deanna Riebe.

Saubier, Forest Service Northern Region, engineering technology.

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser called the team of resource specialists together to contribute to a better understanding of the causes and dynamics of landslides in north Idaho.

**BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

HANSEL, CHRISTINE, budget & accounting analyst, SO, promotion to budget & finance officer, Fishlake NF, Richfield, Utah  
 HARVEY, CAROL, forestry technician, Wise River RD, QSI  
 MCKNIGHT, HARRIET, forestry technician, Wise River RD, QSI

**Reassignments & Transfers**

GUMP, ROBERT, forester, Jefferson R.D., reassignment to supervisory forester, Wallowa-Whitman NF, Unity RD, Unity, Oregon

**BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

EVERS, BONNIE, information receptionist, Darby RD, Quality Step Increase  
 GOSLIN, BILL, forestry technician, West Fork RD, Quality Step Increase  
 HINMAN, TERRY, training instruction business management, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion  
 HOPKINS, KAY, office automation clerk, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion  
 KNEZ, NORMA, supervisory cook, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion  
 LEE, CHERYL, training instructor culinary arts, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion to cook training leader  
 McINTYRE, MURRY, welder training leader, Anaconda JCC, promotion

**Reassignments**

CALLAHAN, CAROLYN, public affairs officer, R-8 Ouachita NF, reassigned to Supervisory Guidance Counselor, Anaconda JCC  
 HORSTMAN, MARY, historian, Lolo NF, reassigned to SO

**New Employees**

REAVELY, KEAL, reinstated to building maintenance training leader, Trapper Creek JCC

**CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

BALL, EILEEN, financial assistant, performance bonus, Palouse RD.  
 JOHNSTON, ROBBIN, forester, performance bonus, Palouse RD  
 LINDER, BRENT, cartographic technician, career promotion, SO  
 MCKEE, MARLENE, computer assistant, performance bonus, SO  
 MCWILLIAMS, SUE, forestry technician, performance bonus, Palouse RD  
 MEEK, JUDY (RUSTY), resource assistant, quality step increase, Palouse RD  
 WELLNER, KENT, forest, performance bonus, Palouse RD

**Reassignments & Transfers**

HILL, LOIS, interdisciplinary (NEPA planner), reassignment, Pierce RD from North RD

**CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

BASHOR, CHERI K., rangeland management specialist, SO, temporary promotion, interdisciplinary (planner), SO  
 CLARK, JOHN R., forester, Sioux RD, performance award  
 CLARK, REGINA M., rangeland management specialist, SO, promotion  
 LAPOINT, HALCYON J., archeologist, SO, promotion  
 MARK, CHARLES A., forester, Beartooth RD, promotion, supervisor  
 forester, Bighorn NF, Medicine Wheel RD  
 SANDBAK, DENNIS J., forester, Sioux RD, performance award  
 TURBIVILLE, GAIL E., support services specialist, Sioux RD, performance award  
 WALTERS-CLARK, LAURIE D., forester, Sioux RD, performance award  
 WARM, ARDEN A., wildlife biologist, Sioux RD, performance award

**Reassignments**

VANOMMEN, LESTER J., computer assistant OA, McKenzie RD, reassignment, supply technician, fire, air, and aviation, RO

**FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

HESS, JERRY, forestry technician, Spotted Bear RD, temporary promotion  
 KOSS, ALAN, forester, Spotted Bear RD, temporary promotion  
 MANLEY, DEB, district ranger, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion  
 MANLEY, DEB, deputy district ranger, Hungry Horse RD, quality step increase  
 OSLER, SHARON, resource specialist, SO, temporary promotion  
 RICHARDSON, TED, assistant fire management officer, promotion  
 RICHARDSON, RODD, forest supervisor, promotion  
 ROWLEY, ALLEN, deputy district ranger, Glacier View RD, temporary promotion  
 SUTTON, JODY, information assistant, SO, quality step increase

**Reassignments**

BREWER, KEN, forester, Hungry Horse RD, reassigned to RO, ecologist  
 KOLLMAYER, JANE, district ranger, Fortine RD, reassigned to district ranger, Tally Lake RD  
 MCCARTHY, DENNIS, operations resource analyst, SO, reassigned to supervisory planning team coordinator

**GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

HILLIARD, ELAINE, Procurement Assistant, SO, QSI  
 MONFORTON, PENNY, Accounting Technician, SO, QSI

**HELENA NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

SCOTT, SHARON, Forester, Helena Ranger District, promotion

**Reassignments & Transfers**

GUOKAS, MARY, office automation clerk, SO to Helena Ranger District, reassignment.  
 HENDRICKSON, SHANE, fishery biologist, Helena Ranger District to Lolo National Forest.  
 MAYNARD, CATHY, soil scientist, SO to Natural Resource Conservation Service, reassignment.

**Resignations**

RUDOLF, SUZANN, office automation clerk, Helena Ranger District, Retirement  
 HENNESS, WILLIAM, fire management officer, Helena Ranger District.

**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

CHARNON, TIMOTHY, biological scientist, Libby RD, quality step increase  
 FLANNIGAN, JAMES, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, performance award  
 HESSENKEMPER, JOSEPH, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, quality step increase  
 HIGGINS, BRUCE, forester, Libby RD, quality step increase  
 HIGGINS, JEANNE, supervisory forester, Three Rivers RD, quality step increase  
 JOHNSTON-TUBB, JONETTE, shared services supervisor, Libby RD, performance award  
 KIDDER, ELLA, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, performance award  
 LIND, RITA, purchasing agent, Three Rivers RD, performance award  
 MOHAR, KATHRYN, writer/editor, Three Rivers RD, quality step increase  
 NATALE, MARK, forester, Three Rivers RD, performance award  
 NUSS, MICHELLE, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, promotion  
 POTTER, PATRICIA, supervisory resource forester, SO, quality step increase  
 SHIRA, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, performance award  
 SHOTZBERGER, DEENA, supervisory forester, Libby RD, quality step increase

**Reassignments & Transfers**

KELLEY, LAWRENCE, resource clerk, Libby RD, transfer, Department of Commerce

**LOLO NATIONAL FOREST****Reassignments & Transfers**

HENDRICKSON, SHANE, fishery biologist, Helena NF, reassignment, fishery biologist, SO.  
 YELCZYN, BEVERLY, forester, Seeley Lake RD, reassignment, forester, SO.

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# Panhandle NF's Customer Service Draws Compliments

Idaho Panhandle National Forests Supervisor David J. Wright received the following letter in October from Bill DeLaney, WO Management Improvement Branch, Personnel Management Staff, about customer service he observed and experienced at the Fernan Ranger Station and at the S0 in Coeur d'Alene:

"I stopped off at the Fernan RD on my way through Idaho last week to buy a map of the Colville NF. I received what I can only describe as 'customer service equal to none'!

"Two women receptionists were on the phone; both came immediately to my assistance. One made a call to the S0 to check on availability of the map. The other found me a small map and directions to the the SO.

"The agency customer 'Pledge' was prominently displayed, as well as the comment cards.

"I found the same situation at the front desk in the S0. I love the way you marked your visitor parking slots 'customer'.

"The service and appearance at both these locations reflect a clear 'customer service' message from you and your management team. I've visited a lot of RD and S0 offices in the past year and your office at Fernan (and your S0) impressed me the most from customer standpoint.

"Good show, Dave."



**CUSTOMER SERVICE FRONTLINERS**  
Shirley Quakkelaar (left) and Gail Melton (right) serve a customer at the Fernan RD, Coeur d'Alene NF, Idaho Panhandle NFs.



**LINDA DELAY (left) & JANET ZORTMAN (right)** help a customer at the front desk in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests headquarters. Photos by Grady Myers.

## INTO THE PAST

November's image was of the St. Joe Ranger station and house built after the fire of 1910.

Shoshone County, Idaho.

Photo by Joe Halm,  
September, 1910.

Now, take a guess at this one.



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**The Northern Region News**  
USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807